

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04897 201713Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-05 /076 W

-----042478 201723Z /42

O 201630Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8882

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4897

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH

SUBJECT: CHIKEREMA ASSURES WHITES

REF: PRETORIA 4869

SUMMARY: CHIKEREMA CRITICIZES FRONTLINE STATE

INTERFERENCE AND SAYS THAT ANY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT MUST
HAVE SAFEGUARDS FOR WHITE INTERESTS AND MUST
LEAVE SECURITY FORCES RELATIVELY INTACT. END SUMMARY.

1. LOCAL PRESS SAYS THAT CHIKEREMA GAVE A STATEMENT
ON SEPTEMBER 19 IN WHICH HE SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE
FRONTLINE STATES FOR INTERFERING IN RHODESIAN AFFAIRS.
HE STATED "WE ARE NOT PUPPETS...WE DO NOT WANT UNRULY
SPECTATORS AND BIASED REFEREES TO CONFUSE OUR
STRUGGLE." CHIKEREMA WENT ON TO SAY THAT
HE WAS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BUT IT HAD TO
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BE ON THE BASIS OF MAJORITY RULE, IT HAD TO HAVE
BUILT-IN MECHANISMS TO SAFEGUARD WHITE INTERESTS
AND, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, IT HAD TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY'S
SECURITY FORCES INTACT. ON WHITE INTERESTS, CHIKEREMA
SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO KEEP WHITE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE
SO THERE MUST BE A "BLOCKING MECHANISM TO SAFEGUARD
AGAINST RETROGRESSIVE LEGISLATION." CHIKEREMA'S

EXCEPTION ON THE SECURITY FORCES WAS AN APPARENT
REFERENCE TO THE SELOUS SCOUTS.

2. ON OTHER MATTERS, CHIKEREMA WAS ASKED IF HE HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES HE WOULD NOT BE DETAINED. HE ANSWERED 'IF THEY AGREED FOR ME TO COME BACK, THEN WHATEVER THEY HELD AGAINST ME FELL AWAY.' HOWEVER, HE SAID THERE WERE NO CONDITIONS. HE HAD COME HOME AT ANY RISK TO ANSWER "THE CALL OF MY PEOPLE". ASKED ABOUT THE ARMED STRUGGLE, CHIKEREMA SAID 99 PERCENT OF BLACKS SUPPORTED IT AND "ONLY A MADMAN WOULD OPPOSE IT."

3. ON SABC BROADCAST MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 20, SAME BASIC REPORT OF CHIKEREMA STATEMENT WAS CARRIED. HOWEVER, THE SABC CORRESPONDENT IN SALISBURY ADDED THAT BISHOP MUZOREWA WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN CHIKEREMA GAVE HIS STATEMENT AND IT WAS BELIEVED HE DID NOT AGREE WITH SUBSTANCE. SABC ALSO SAID THAT CHIKEREMA AT NO TIME REFERRED TO ANGLO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT PLAN.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT'S STILL TOO SOON TO PUT INTO CONTECT, SUBSTANCE OF CHIKEREMA'S REMARKS COINCIDE CLOSELY WITH STAND ON WHITE INTERESTS TAKEN BY SMITH TO DATE AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR HIS RETURN (SEE REFTEL) CAME AS MUCH FROM SMITH AS FROM

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MUZOREWA. HE CERTAINLY HAS GONE FAR BEYOND MUZOREWA ON THE POINTS RELATED TO WHITE INTERESTS AND SECURITY FORCES. ACCORDING TO INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, MUZOREWA HAD SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT BRINGING CHIKEREMA INTO THE UANC BUT, PROBABLY DUE TO HIS NEED FOR A KNOWN NATIONALISTS ON HIS EXECUTIVE AND POSSIBLY ALSO AT THE URGING OF CONSERVATIVES AROUND HIM, MUZOREWA ACQUIESCED IN CHIKEREMA BECOMING THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT. IT MAY BE THAT MUZOREWA IN BRINGING CHIKEREMA INTO ANC LEADERSHIP HAS CREATED MORE PROBLEMS FOR HIMSELF THAN HE SOLVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLITICAL LEADERS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770341-1103
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770944/aaaabknd.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRETORIA 4869
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1207284
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHIKEREMA ASSURES WHITES
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH, (CHIKEREMA, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f0930a42-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009